CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

**2022 Innovation Pilot Awards
Request for Proposal**

Issued: **Thursday, November 11, 2021**

Proposals Due: **Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:00 PM**

Awards Announced: **Mid-March 2022**

Anticipated Project Commencement Date: **June 1, 2022**

Center for Health Innovation
Established by UNC Health and the UNC School of Medicine (UNC SOM), the Center for Health Innovation ("the Center") initiates, evaluates, and supports the adoption of disruptive patient-centered innovations in the delivery and financing of health care that align with the quadruple aim. Generally these innovations create a new value proposition for the customer, such as greater simplicity, convenience, and quality at a lower cost. The Center strives to provide rapid assessment, coordinated facilitation, program management, partnership development, and funding for innovation.

Innovation Pilot Awards
Since introducing the Innovation Pilot Awards in 2013, the Center for Health Innovation has awarded 30 teams over $1.3M total to support innovative pilots in a variety of areas including new models of care, digital health, device development, advanced statistical research, and workforce development (https://www.med.unc.edu/innovation/previous-award-winners/). Previous award winners have been able to leverage findings gathered during their pilot project to obtain over $4.8M of additional funding.

For the 2022 award round, the Center once again seeks proposals from UNC Health (including its owned affiliates) and UNC SOM employees for initiatives that support the mission of the Center (see Areas of Interest, below). Up to four (4) awards of up to $50,000 each are available.

ADDITIONAL INTERNAL SOURCES FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE IDEAS

The NC TraCS $5K - $50K Translational Research Matched Pilot Grant Program funds proposals intended to provide preliminary data for external grants submissions.

The UNC Institute for Health Care Quality Improvement offers the IHQI Improvement Scholars Program. Selected scholars and their project teams receive support, training, and coaching from IHQI faculty and staff.

Eshelman Institute for Innovation (EII) Faculty and Student Projects. This program supports projects that grow intellectual property or provide commercial opportunities.

Gillings Innovation Labs funds projects that are innovative, interdisciplinary, and strive to achieve fundamental breakthroughs in public health.

Innovate Carolina – Get Funding. A university-wide initiative to help faculty, students, and staff thrive as innovators and entrepreneurs. Database lists funding opportunities from internal and external sources for innovators and entrepreneurs.

Areas of Interest

The Center is interested in proposals of novel and innovative approaches to be piloted within UNC Health across a broad spectrum of interest areas, including:

- Innovative care delivery models and pathways (e.g., population health management, coordination of care, integration of care, novel patient engagement approaches)
- Novel approaches to improve health equity / reduce health disparities
- New technologies and new applications for existing technologies (e.g., software applications, mobile devices, wearables, clinical devices, decision support)
- Advanced analytics (e.g., clinical risk assessment, event prediction and detection, health outcomes analysis)
- Business model innovations (e.g., financial incentives, new reimbursement models, changes to cost structure)
- Alternative staffing and new workforce development
- Translational research

Review and Selection Process

Proposals that address business, operational, or other systems and are not classified as translational research will be reviewed and scored by an Innovation Pilot Award Review Panel. Translational research proposals will be reviewed and scored by the NC TraCS Study Section, with the Center for Health Innovation making the final funding decision. Translational research may include post-lab, human-ready, actionable scientific discoveries, pre-clinical translational studies, and comparative effectiveness research.

Proposals will be evaluated according to:

- Anticipated meaningful outcomes / significance of the work
- Novelty / innovation of the idea
- Soundness of the proposed approach / methods
- Feasibility of accomplishing the stated project goals within the one-year project period
- Degree of alignment with the mission of the Center for Health Innovation

Proposals with the following elements will be given strong consideration:

- Cross-disciplinary, multi-partner, and diverse teams
- Promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Potential for being positively disruptive
- Scalable and sustainable ideas

Eligibility

Eligible proposals and team members must meet all of the following criteria to be considered:

- The PI or Project Leader must be a current employee of UNC Health, any of its owned affiliates, or UNC SOM.
- Members of the Center's Innovation Pilot Award Review Committee may not apply as a lead PI/Project Leader.
- Translational research projects must have a PI or co-PI who is an UNC SOM faculty member with an appointment that allows them to serve as PI on an externally sponsored research project. Researchers who hold an Adjunct appointment are not eligible to apply as PI.

- Faculty or employees from other UNC schools (e.g., Pharmacy, Nursing, Dentistry, Public Health, Kenan-Flagler) are welcome to participate but may not apply as PI or Project Leader. Co-PI's and co-leaders must be current employees of UNC Health, any of its owned affiliates, or UNC Chapel Hill.
- There is no limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted by a division, department or individual.
- Project activities must occur primarily at facilities of UNC Health and/or its owned affiliates.
- Project must be limited to one year in scope with a start date no later than June 1, 2022.
- Project activities should not be submitted elsewhere for funding at the time of the submission to the Center.

How to Apply
Proposals are **due to the Center by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 18, 2022**. Proposals must be submitted before the deadline or will not be considered. Proposals must be submitted via the online form (https://survey.unch.unc.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n2KLl6730) in .pdf format (see Proposal Requirements below). All required fields on the form must be completed to finalize the submission.

Proposal Requirements
The proposal must include the following sections *in a single .pdf* (descriptions below):
1. Project narrative (5 single-spaced page limit)
2. Budget (1 single-spaced page limit)
3. Budget Justification (1 single-spaced page limit)
4. Letters of Support
5. Abbreviated CV/Biosketches
6. References (1 single-spaced page limit)

The project narrative should be in 12-point font, and must **not exceed** 5 single-spaced pages. The budget, budget justification, letters of support, references and CVs are not included in the narrative 5-page limit.

Required proposal components:
1. Narrative that includes the following sections (responses to all questions under this section #1 should **not exceed** 5 single spaced pages):
   1.1. Background and significance of the issue being addressed, including its specific relevance to UNC Health's patient populations;
   1.2. Specific goals of this project, including anticipated outcomes and metrics that will be utilized to measure progress throughout the project cycle;
   1.3. Detailed description of project, approach and methods;
   1.4. Statement of the project's alignment with the missions of UNC Health, UNC SOM, and the Center;
   1.5. A project timeline that includes activities, duration, and deliverables for each step;
   1.6. Potential barriers or risks to implementation and plans for mitigation
   1.7. List of UNC and non-UNC partners and their roles; and
   1.8. Description of scalability potential and sustainability when funding has ended
2. Detailed budget (not to exceed 1 page) that includes:
   2.1. Key personnel costs (salary and fringe);

      2.2. Equipment;

      2.3. Supplies;

      2.4. Travel; and

      2.5. Other costs

3. Budget justification (not to exceed 1 single-spaced page) that includes:

      3.1. Description of roles of all key staff; and

      3.2. Description of each major budget item and how it supports the project goals

4. Letter of support from one of the following: Division Chief, Department Chair, UNC Health Vice President or higher ranking leader from the reporting unit of the PI/Project Leader

5. If your proposal requires a commitment of time from staff or other resources outside of your department/division/unit (e.g., ISD, hospital operations or administration, other clinics), please also include a letter of support for use of resources from the appropriate VP or higher ranking leader

6. If execution of your project is dependent upon additional funding not described in your budget, please describe the total required budget, current or planned additional source(s) of funding, and the intended use for these other funds

7. *Abbreviated* CV / Biosketch for PI/Project Lead (required)

8. *Abbreviated* CV / Biosketch for other critical team members (optional)

9. References (optional; not to exceed 1 single-spaced page)

Use of Funds

- Awards may not be used for faculty salary support
- Awards may be used to pay salary and benefit expense for staff and other non-faculty project personnel, as well as to fund other direct project-related expenses (e.g. equipment, software, materials) as outlined in the project's budget and approved by the Center.
  - o Please note that equipment, software and materials budget items must be reasonable. Teams are encouraged to consider whether technologies or equipment already exist at UNC and may be borrowed or leased during the period of award.
- No indirect costs or overhead charges will be allowed
- Funds will not be released until completion of IRB approval or waiver, as appropriate.
- Funds will not be released until HR approval for new hires has been documented, if needed.
- Funding will only be provided for actual expenditures up to the amount of the award

Award Administration and Reporting

- Award recipients will be required to invoice for actual expenses incurred during the one-year project.
- Award recipients will be required to submit quarterly progress reports
- Evaluation of project results will be required in writing to the Center within one month after the conclusion of the project (month 13).

To Learn More
Go to https://www.med.unc.edu/innovation/previous-award-winners/ to learn about the 2013-2021 awards. In addition, questions about this RFP can be sent to innovatehealthcare@med.unc.edu.